

struggle for greater freedom has been an unending battle against governments in power who fail to resist the temptation to abuse their power. People struggling against government tyranny is a theme that resonates throughout history and across the globe. Political freedom, economic freedom, and religious freedom; the focus of the struggle changes, but the direction of the goal and the inspiration for the cause have always remained the same.

The human soul desires freedom from government oppression, freedom to control one's destiny, and freedom to worship one's God. The Republican agenda is an answer to those yearnings for more freedom, lower taxes, smaller government, and the right to express our faith in the public square.

This is the direction to more freedom for all Americans.

ALL WORKING FAMILIES DESERVE RELIEF FROM TAXES

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton expressed his firm commitment to stand for children of all working families, not just the ones covered by the Republican tax bill. It is wrong, Mr. Speaker, to ignore millions of taxpaying working families, including thousands of children in Arkansas. It is not class warfare to point out that payroll taxes deducted every 2 weeks out of checks are taxes, and all working families deserve relief from whatever taxes they pay, payroll or income.

CRACK THE CHAMPAGNE AND CALL ROBIN LEACH

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, guess what? My colleagues have heard this before, but if someone makes \$54,000, they are now the rich. They just do not know it yet. Or at least that is what the Clinton administration has figured with their calculations on who should get a tax cut. With the stroke of a calculator they have created funny money. They have moved millions of Americans from the middle class to Beverly Hills, from Main Street to Rodeo Drive, from the minivan to the limo.

This new wealth in America includes a lot of people. Who are they?

Some 1.7 million union members are rich; 8.1 million government workers are rolling in dough; 2.4 million teachers better crack the champagne and call Robin Leach.

They are all rich according to the President and they just do not need a tax cut.

We should get serious. We have not had a tax cut in more than 16 years, and now we have a real chance to provide relief to our families. It is time for the left to stop twisting the truth about tax relief.

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BASIC FAIRNESS IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour by the year 2002. We raised the minimum wage a year ago and a lot of Republicans were dead set against it. They predicted it would ruin the economy. What did it do? It boosted wages for 4 million working families, unemployment dropped, inflation has been low, the economy has been moving, but despite this good news, many of my Republican colleagues will oppose another increase in the minimum wage.

I might say, these are the same folks that want to give a tax break to the wealthiest individuals in this country, the same Republicans whose tax bill gives nearly 60 percent of the tax breaks to people making a quarter of a million dollars a year or more, the same Republicans whose tax bill includes an all-out assault on the minimum wage with language about independent contractors that actually encourages employers to pay some workers less than the minimum wage.

If a person works hard in this country day in and day out, they do a good job, they should get a paycheck that is big enough to support their family. They need a tax break that favors them and not the very wealthiest in this country. We are not talking about buying BMWs here, we are talking about being able to have people to afford to buy a used Chevy. That is basic fairness. That is what this minimum wage bill is about. That is what the Democratic tax bill is about.

HOW TO GET RICH QUICK

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend I saw this entertainer, Ed McMahon, on television. He was talking about how many of the viewers may be rich already and not even know it. I thought how similar that claim was to the ones we are hearing from Democrats today, that the American people, the average hard-working families earning between \$20,000 a year and \$75,000 a year, are somehow rich and may not even know it.

We do not have to watch the mail in order to find out whether we are

wealthy. Under the Democrats' manipulation of income, we can just call the Treasury Department now and find out whether we are rich. In fact, it is the dirty little secret of the White House and the Democrat Party: Get rich quick, call the U.S. Treasury now, find out how they have taken your \$45,000 income, and now they call you a millionaire on the House floor and suggest that you do not deserve a tax cut.

Call the number of the Treasury Department and find out about their dirty little manipulation of your income; 202-622-0120, 202-622-0120, the Treasury operators are standing by.

TWO CHOICES IN TAX CUT PLANS

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hardworking people in middle Michigan who want very much to receive the benefits of the tax cuts that are being proposed here and discussed in the House of Representatives. We have two choices: We have individuals who now lead the House, who were the ones that proposed in the 1980's tax breaks for the wealthy, hoping that they would trickle down to our middle-class families and each of us who have been working hard every day; or tax breaks that go directly into the pockets of hard-working middle-class people.

The tax cut that I am supporting, that was put forward by the Democrats and the President, is advocating making sure that if a person has a home and they want to sell it, and that is where most of us put our savings, they get a tax break. If they have children, they get a tax break. If they are trying to send their children to college, they get a tax break. If they have a small business and they have worked hard and put all their sweat equity into their business over the years, they get a tax break. If they have a family-owned farm, they get a tax break.

What we do not do is focus the tax breaks on the top 2 percent. I urge we adopt this program.

LOOK AT THE RECORD ON TAX CUT PROPOSALS

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, those who are following this debate on taxes may have a hard time trying to figure out which party is being candid on their respective tax-cutting claims. My suggestion is that they simply look at the record. When we do, we see our friends on the Democrat side consistently opposing tax cuts.

Their argument is that middle-class tax cuts are giving a tax break to the wealthy. But the record shows that the so-called wealthy they are talking